

## WOULD ABANDON ALL ROAD WORK NOT ESSENTIAL

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13.—Emphasizing the war-time stress being placed on all transportation facilities in the United States, and pointing to the necessity for selective highway construction as a means of relief, Director Logan Waller Page of the Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering, today sent a letter to state highway departments urging the adoption of a definite policy in good roads matters with a view to eliminating from next year's construction the non-essential roads and obtaining effective guarantees for the construction of those which are essential. Need for efficiency through co-operation of all persons directly or indirectly instrumental in road construction, is the keynote of the letter.

Calling attention to the fact that road construction throughout the United States has been seriously hampered by reasons of excessive costs, scarcity of labor and inadequate transportation facilities, Director Page declares: "This situation would be serious even in normal times, but in this crisis when the public roads must in addition to their normal traffic be depended upon to relieve the tremendous strain to which the railways are subjected, it becomes a matter of vital importance that some means be found at least to deal with next season's work so as to assure better results than are possible under our present system."

Mr. Page explains that he has discussed the subject with men who are identified with road work in various capacities. He urges the heads of the highway departments of the states to write to him, telling their views on the proposition. Copies of Mr. Page's letter are also being sent to contractors and others dealing with the constructive features of good road-making, with the view of placing the matter before them in a way which will give them a better understanding of the seriousness of the transportation situation and the need for all the good roads the country can build.

The policy proposed by Director Page, and on which he requests expressions of opinion, is outlined as follows:

(1) The selective consideration of all of next year's construction jobs in all of the states and the preparation of a program of road work throughout the nation, in which program each construction job would be listed in the order of its economic importance to the particular territory in which it is located and to the nation as a whole. This arrangement, he points out, would permit of the postponement of relatively less urgent undertakings.

(2) A co-ordination of this selective process with the railway and water transportation facilities with a view to insuring an adequate number of cars and vessels of suitable type, with proper distribution to transport materials for the construction of the approved jobs.

(3) A co-ordination with the materials industries with a view to insuring supplies of materials in adequate amount, distribution and delivery to permit the construction program to be carried out.

### SLOW VICTORY BUT SURE

The ebb and flow of victory around Cambrai would not be so perplexing to the layman if he would bear in mind the fact that both the Germans and the Allies hold in reserve enormous masses of men and guns quite capable of breaking the front at any point. The British, by surprise attack, produced a great dent in the German line; the Germans, by an attack also containing elements of surprise, forced the British to recoil from their most advanced positions. Both sides have taken thousands of prisoners and many guns, but the advantage in these respects appears to lie with the British. Both the British attack and the German counter-attack were costly in lives, but the German counter-attack appears to have been vastly the more costly. The net result of the two operations is registered, not so much in the relative strength or weakening of the actual battle lines, as in the relative drain upon the reserves in the rear. If such fighting were continued indefinitely, one side or the other would finally find itself too greatly depleted in reserves to stop the breaches in its line made by the enemy. As the German reserves are obviously more easily exhausted, the outcome of such fighting would naturally be the retirement of the Germans to a shorter line, to be held until reserves and again become exhausted, when further retirement would become necessary. It is a slow process of victory, but sure—The New Republic.

### HAIG THANKS PERSHING

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, Dec. 12.—(By the Associated Press)—Field Marshal Haig, commanding the British forces in France, has expressed to Gen. Pershing in a letter his thanks for the assistance given by American army engineers around Gouzeaucourt on Nov. 30.

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If you have a bad taste in your mouth, tongue coated, appetite poor, lazy, don't-care feeling, no ambition or energy, troubled with undigested foods, you should take Olive Tablets, the substitute for calomel.

Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets are a purely vegetable compound mixed with olive oil. You will know them by their olive color. They do the work without gripping, cramps or pain.

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W. F. Hindle Drug Store, Bridgeport, Conn., and leading druggists everywhere.—Adv.

### LITTLE BENNY'S NOTE BOOK

(By Lee Page)

The Park Ave. News Weather. Possibly fair, possibly not.

Sports. Last Saturday afternoon Sid Hunt and Sam Cross challenged each other to a race from the corner to the first telegraph pole and back. Sam Cross being so far behind the way back that he stopped to tie his shoe and then sed that was why he did not win.

Society Notes. Mr. Leroy Shooster was observed all dressed up in his Sunday suit last Thursday, saying it was nothing special, only his other suit was being fixed.

Pome by Sidney Martin

The Obstinate Parent

I had a little drum

Which my father wouldn't leave me

keep.

Tho I promised him never to play it

Except when he was asleep.

Military News. Lieutenant Reddy

Merly has been awarded a bravery medal for his brave conduct when

attacked last Monday night by 3 members of the Berks Street gang armed

with sticks. Lieutenant Merly being

unarmed, except for his feet, wounding all 3 of the Berks Streeters in the

shins and forcing them to retreat yelling.

Intriguing Facts About Intriguing

People. Lew Davises father uses a

grate big alarm clock which wakes up

everybody in the house at 6 o'clock

every morning except Lew Davises

father.

WHAT DO IT PROFIT A MAN?

Germany is working, by every

scheme that ingenuity can devise and

money can put into operation, to

make American workmen traitors to

their country in its hour of need.

What do it profit a man if he

sends his sons and brothers to the

battlefields, and after he gets them

there he betrays them to the enemy

by stopping the industrial home work

without which they can neither win

or escape?

The courses of nations—the lives of

millions—are changed by very small

events. Had the "Monitor" not been

ready for the "Merrimac" exactly

when she was, the Union fleet would

have been rendered useless and the

Civil War might have had a different

ending. Had someone then succeeded

in making serious trouble in a

mine, a foundry, or a shop—had

someone then succeeded in delaying

transportation while the "Monitor"

was under construction, what would

have become of the whole Union fleet

of wooden ships which was blockading

the Southern ports?

Germany wants us to be unready

or confused when a similar crisis

comes.

Our whole nation is preparing for

the turning point in this war which

is to determine whether every man

shall have a chance to work out his

destiny, or whether he and his country

are to become subject to the dictation

of a Prussian group.

If we are not fully ready when the

test comes it will be easier for German

armies and German ships, German

submarines and German aircraft, to

kill the men that go out from your

community to protect you and your

rights.

Whoever from any motive delays

work, directly or indirectly on the

war will be an accessory to the

murder of his fellow Americans.

Every strike in the United States,

while this war is in progress, is a

blow in favor of Germany.

What do it profit a man to in-

crease his wages or decrease his

working hours if by so doing he con-

tributes to the victory of a nation that

makes slaves of white men and

scourges them as they work?

The million of the blacks in

America before the Civil War was far

better than the condition of the whites

of elgium who today are carried off

like cattle, are overworked, under-

fed, beaten and, sick or well, must

labor incessantly, often under the fire

of their own guns.

What do it profit a man to aid a

monarch who in this manner has

hamelessly re-established the slavery

of white men? The workman in

America who obstructs the cutting

of wood, the mining of fuel, the

weaving of cloth, the turning of

wheels in factories or on rails while

his war is in progress—he is helping

the slave masters, the destroyers of

civilization, the murderers of women

and children.

What do it profit a man who has

lived in a land of incomparable lib-

erty, of advantages unparalleled in

the history of the world, to contrib-

ute by any act, however small,

to the success of an autocracy to

whom a common man is but a clod

of earth?

The workman who stands faith-

fully by his duties day by day, al-

lowing no person and no thought to

get between him and an honest per-

formance of his work, is rendering

the highest kind of patriotic service

to his nation and to his family.

What do it profit a man to sell

his self-interest, perhaps his soul, for

little selfish gain in such an hour?

When life's services are measured up at the end, those who have faithfully labored through the war shall be entitled to their credit as well as those who have led the charges in battle.

What do it profit a man who wants to improve the condition of laboring men if he gains a little but in so doing prolongs the slavery of Belgian workmen, who now cannot gain their freedom but by death, or through the victory of the Allies? Stand by your work for your own honor and safety, for the safety and success of your fellow countrymen who go forth to fight, as well as for the sake of workmen who are now in actual slavery beneath German slave drivers.

## HOLLAND'S ARMY NOW READY FOR ACTIVE SERVICE

Country Could Place Nearly  
a Million Men In Field  
at Short Notice

The Hague, Netherlands, Dec. 13.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Only some two days' march north of the battle arena in Flanders stands a formidable army, intact, fresh and vigorous, that has not yet fired a shot in the great war. It is the army of the Netherlands.

That army is ever growing. The work of training began feverishly back in August, 1914, and it has been carried on without a break ever since in all parts of the country. A special law was passed some two years since greatly widening the circle of those liable to service, with the result that all the men under arms on August 1, 1914, now have been relieved by newly-trained and sent home, though they can be recalled to the colors immediately should occasion arise.

That the country's military leaders have no intention to rest on their laurels after the achievement shown by a bill that has just reached parliament providing for a re-examination of all men of the Landsturm born since 1885 who have been rejected for one reason or another. This measure is expected to yield a very substantial amount of fresh human material.

How large a mass of trained men Holland could now place in the field is easily discernible. There is first the army that was mobilized in the days of the war's outbreak, probably not far short of a quarter of a million men, and now all at home on indefinite leave. Then there is the new army, now under arms, of a like size. Moreover, there is a very considerable body of men who, prior to 1914, had finished their period of 15 years in Militia, Landwehr and Landsturm, but who are subject to call should occasion require.

This should bring the number of trained men available to half a million men and possibly well over that number, constituting a far more formidable and probably better trained fighting force than the Netherlands has ever before possessed in her history.

In equipment, too, the Netherlands army has made great strides during the past three years. The armament industry has been reorganized and enormously extended. The artillery arm, in which the country was notoriously weak, has been reinforced in so far as material was obtainable. Some guns are on order. The delivery of anti-aircraft guns is also in course of execution.

Serious efforts are being exerted to improve Holland's aerial service. A reorganization is contemplated that is estimated to cost between \$7,200,000 and \$7,800,000. The new scheme provides for 15 airplane divisions comprising 58 battle planes and 66 scouting planes. Despite Germany's own big needs, the arrival of a dozen machines from that country was reported a few days ago.

TO FLOAT FLAG  
FROM STEEPLES  
TO STOP RAIDS

The Hague, Dec. 13.—In the second chamber yesterday War Minister De Jonge, in answer to a question, said that in order to protect Dutch frontier towns from damage by air raids the Dutch flag will be floated from church steeples, but no effective protective measure has been found for night time. Foreign governments, he added, have not refused to pay compensation for damage done by their airmen.

BIG DEBATE ON  
CAILLAUX CASE  
IS POSTPONED

Paris, Dec. 13.—The big debate on the Caillaux case, which the former premier has given to understand will "keep away a pack of unfounded gossip," is not likely to occur before next Tuesday. The committee of 11 which the chamber of deputies will elect to report on Gen. Dubail's application will be unable to complete its work before that time. Its role is exclusively to decide whether sufficient cause has been shown to justify the raising of parliamentary inviolability.

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